KS04:006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Friday, January 16, 2004

Contact:

Doug Stone Terri Carbaugh 916-653-6575

Secretary of State Kevin Shelley to Investigate Allegations of Abuse in San Francisco Mayoral Race

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Secretary of State Kevin Shelley announced today that he has launched an investigation into allegations that San Francisco City Employees were forced into electioneering.

"These accusations are serious in nature," said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley. "I have directed my office to investigate and determine what actions, if any, took place. I am confidant that with the full attention of the Secretary of State's Voter Protection and Fraud Investigation Unit as well as the San Francisco City Attorney's Office, we can determine what happened and act accordingly."

The allegations involve employees of the City of San Francisco who claim to have been coerced into voting for Mayor Gavin Newsom and also assisting with his campaign in the days leading up to the November 4th election.